

CONFIDENTIAL

21 January 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: Group, Division, Bureau and Staff Chiefs

SUBJECT : Acknowledgement of CIA Affiliation of JPRS

1. On 4 February 1974, in keeping with Mr. Colby's policy of greater openness for Agency activities [redacted]

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[redacted] JPRS will be openly acknowledged as a component of CIA. [redacted]

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[redacted] all of JPRS' customary functions and procedures as a translation service for the entire U.S. Government will continue unaltered.

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2. We hope to make this move with as little disruption as possible. For this reason--and also out of concern for our overseas bureaus--neither the CIA nor the FBIS imprint will appear on JPRS publications or correspondence. JPRS will operate publicly under its own name and will continue to receive direction from FBIS management acting under the title of the Joint Publications Research Committee, which will be made up of FBIS division and staff representatives. We will seek to minimize the identification of JPRS with FBIS. However, when and as questions regarding JPRS subordination arise, the CIA connection will be freely acknowledged.

3. Attached is an approved background statement which should be your guide in any discussions concerning JPRS in which you may become involved. It has been coordinated in command channels, with the legal and public affairs officers of the Agency, [redacted]

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[redacted] Please make sure that your Staff employees read this memorandum and are familiar with the background statement.

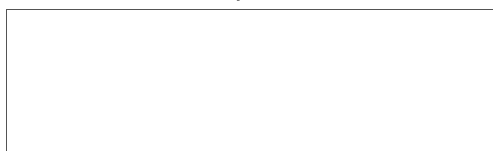
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You are not authorized to go beyond the text of the approved statement in any explanations or discussions outside the Agency concerning JPRS; moreover, references to JPRS as a component of FBIS should be minimized when discussing JPRS with anyone other than cleared Staff personnel.

4. This memorandum may be destroyed when it has served its purpose.



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**Director**  
**Foreign Broadcast Information Service**

**Attachment:**

**Background Statement - JPRS**

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BACKGROUND STATEMENT - JPRS

The end of World War II marked the beginning of an information explosion in open foreign-language sources (newspapers, periodicals, books), of interest both to the Intelligence Community and to other U.S. Government departments and agencies generally. The launching of Sputnik in 1957 heightened interest in foreign scientific and technological information, an interest shared by the Federal Government, the scientific and academic communities and the public at large. At the same time, foreign publications were multiplying so rapidly that it was beyond the capability of a single Federal agency to translate, with its normal staff, the volume and variety of material involved. Therefore, in 1957 the U.S. Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS) was established with a small staff supported by freelance contract translators to meet the ever increasing demand for translating open foreign-language publications. Since that time, JPRS has performed open-source translation services upon request of any U.S. Government department or agency.

JPRS functions as a translation service for the entire U.S. Government, accepting translation requests from other Government departments and agencies. It receives its funding from the Central Intelligence Agency as a service of common concern to the whole Government.

Over the years the JPRS translation program has been broadened to cover a wide spectrum of languages and subject matter. JPRS now has a worldwide subscribership and publishes some 66 regular reports covering political, economic, scientific and sociological developments around the world, that are distributed through the National Technical Information Service of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

The open-source translation program conducted by JPRS plays an essential role in the national intelligence process. As such, it must be directly responsive to the requirements of the Director of Central Intelligence in the discharge of his statutory functions. This requirement can best be met by associating JPRS directly with CIA, to make clear its primary accountability to the Agency. The National Technical Information Service will continue, in the interests of efficiency, to handle public subscriptions for JPRS reports.